

Meeting Minutes

RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER CORE GROUP

Bureau of Land Management

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

The meeting commenced at 10:45 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Loretta Asay, Kathy August, Christine Brehm, Bob Clements, Richard Cutbirth, Nancy Flagg, Pat Fleming, Gary Graham, Laurie Howard, Michael Johnson, Richard Leifreid, Alan O'Neill, Michael Reiland, Mark Ryzshinski, Henry Tom, Pam Vilkin, Liz Warren, Mary Weisenmiller, Debbie Wright, and Billie Young.

1. Introductions and Announcements

The group welcomed Liz Warren, local historian, and Gary Graham, citizen.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 20, 2005, meeting were approved with no changes.

3. Curriculum Update

Curriculum coordinator Jeanne Klockow provided an update on progress toward completion of the historical curriculum and cultural curriculum. Jeanne reported that curriculum development is on schedule. The Historical curriculum was distributed at the September core group meeting, and Jeanne said feedback was still welcome. She distributed the essential questions recently developed by the Cultural work group. Jeanne noted that there is no discussion of Native American topics as yet. The work group is awaiting representation from local Native Americans in order to ensure the curriculum addresses this important topic correctly. Jeanne will be assembling a work group in November to develop the Night Sky curriculum. The development process includes a brainstorming session, followed by the development of essential questions, which are then correlated with activities for students and, finally, correlated with state and local education standards.

4. Review of Project Schedule

Michael Reiland reviewed the project schedule and provided an update on several key issues.

Utilities

Michael reported that BLM is still trying to contact a photovoltaic expert recommended by Loretta Asay. The agency needs to work out a net metering agreement with Nevada Power Company.

Water Line

The BLM is still moving on a dual path to resolve the water issue – either through a well or a municipal pipeline. The agency will continue pursuing both options until one clearly becomes the best option. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. Michael reported the Water District did some testing on water for the wells and determined the magnesium levels would need to be reduced if the BLM uses groundwater. BLM still has rights to 19 acre feet of surface water on the property, although the flow is not constant throughout the year. The developer of homes near Bonnie Springs has contacted the Las Vegas Valley Water District to inquire about connecting to the same water line that might run to the school. Such a possibility would decrease the BLM's cost for the line, but a well might be a better option. The Water District thinks the pumping station to the visitor center will be sufficient to get water to the school. Pam Vilkin

asked about the size of the line. Michael replied that a three-inch line is contemplated from the visitor center to the school, which could potentially change to an eight-inch line if the developer ties into it. Pam also asked if the NEPA study will take into account the potential for future development in the area. Michael replied that Otak, Inc., is aware of plans for homes in the area.

Pam questioned the message to kids by running a water line to an environmental education school that could help encourage development on both sides of the highway. Liz Warren thought it could be worked into the curriculum. Loretta Asay pointed out that there are costs and benefits and tradeoffs threaded throughout the project, which could allow the students to apply critical thinking skills. Jeanne Klockow said the students need to feel what it is like to conserve, which they will learn at the school. But Pam Vilkin noted that the bigger lesson may be that a structure doesn't get built when water is not available.

Michael reminded the group that the school is being planned around water usage of only 10 acre feet per year no matter what the source. Les Wallach agreed and said the architects are planning for 50 gallons per day per students versus the 230 gallon-per-day average for Las Vegas residents.

Parking

Michael Reiland reported that BLM is still talking to Bonnie Springs about parking but there is no news to report at this time.

Operator

Michael Reiland said the agency is still on schedule to have a Request For Information (RFI) out by November 1 to potential school operators. If anyone knows of organizations that should be sent the RFI, please notify Michael.

5. Standing Reports

A. *Line and Space Architects*

Bob Clements of Line and Space Architects provided an update on recent activities (*on file in UNLV Public Lands Institute office and BLM office*). The design development phase continues and is scheduled for completion by December 2, at which time there will be a series of reviews and then a formal value analysis in early January by a panel of experts. Line and Space is moving forward on getting geotechnical studies completed. Bob met with Jeanne Klockow and Paul Buck on his last trip to Las Vegas and, based on curriculum needs, one flex lab will be dropped from the plans. Instructor housing will be scaled back to reduce square footage by approximately 40 percent. Bob said the entrance has been reworked into a one-way drive through the parking area and will loop into the bus drop-off. Bob said revisions to the wild horse and burro facility include: 1) moving the maintenance area, 2) adding stairs to the catwalk and at the southeast corner of arena, 3) turning one holding pen into 6 individual stalls, and 4) placing the helicopter pad in the northeast corner of the pasture. Revised plans will be presented to the Building Committee.

Henry Tom reported on LEED certification, which is currently at 48 points. Several other possibilities are being pursued to reach the platinum rating, and work continues on LEED commissioning. Liz Warren expressed a concern about mixed messages by having a dryer rather than teaching students to hang clothes to dry. The architects said students will have a choice.

B. *BLM Capital Improvements*

Michael Reiland provided an update on BLM capital improvements at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The law enforcement building next to the fire station is moving

along well. Red Springs will have its grand opening on November 22. Vandalism recently occurred at the site, resulting in \$3,000-\$4,000 in damages from graffiti.

The Visitor Center project will undergo its first value analysis on November 14. Michael reminded the group that the Visitor Center Core Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month and all are welcome.

7. Committee Reports

NEPA Committee

Chair Michael Johnson has been trying to schedule a meeting to review the draft NEPA report in order to get comments back to Otak. John McCarty expects completion of the environmental assessment by June 2006. Michael is hoping for a March deadline to coincide with the operator contract. The agency hopes to tighten up the deadline in the next two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 6, at the UNLV Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, located at Tropicana Avenue and Tamarus Street, just east of Maryland Parkway.